

A Novelty in *Stereospermum colais* (Buch.-Ham. ex Dillwyn) Mabberley (Bignoniaceae) from the Sahyadri Mountains in Kerala

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Abstract

A new variety of *Stereospermum colais* (Buch.-Ham. ex Dillwyn) Mabberley from the Sahyadri mountains in Kerala is described and illustrated. It is characterised by larger and pink corolla, ovate-acute calyx lobes and simple and glandular haired filaments.

Keywords : *Stereospermum colais* var. *shendurunii*, New variety, Shenduruni

Introduction

The genus *Stereospermum* Cham. is reported to have 24 taxa distributed in tropical Asia and tropical Africa (Mabberley, 1997). Sprague (1906) reported four species viz.: *S. kunthianum* Cham., *S. acuminatissimum* K.Schum., *S. zenkeri* K.Schum. and *S. hamosum* K.Schum. from tropical Africa and stated that total count in the genus is 11 and other species are distributed in Tropical Asia and Madagascar. Van Steenis (1977) reported three species viz.: *S. fimbriatum* (Wall. ex G. Don) DC., *S. chelonoides* (L. f.) DC. and *S. personatum* (Hassk.) Chatterjee [= *S. colais* (Buch.-Ham. ex Dillwyn) Mabberley] from Malaysian region and affirmed that there were over a dozen species in tropical Africa, Madagascar and South East Asia. Clarke (1884) reported nine species from the erstwhile British India and Gamble (1924) recorded three species viz.: *S. angustifolium* Hains, *S. suaveolens* DC. and *S. tetragonum* DC. [= *Stereospermum colais* (Buch.-Ham. ex Dillwyn) Mabberley] from the former Madras Presidency. Later, *S. angustifolium* (Haines) Haines was reduced to a variety of *S. colais* (Buch.-Ham. ex Dillwyn) Mabberley, var. *angustifolium* (Haines) Chandrasekaran (Chandrasekaran, 1987). In Sri Lanka, the genus is represented by only one species viz.: *Stereospermum colais* (Buch.-Ham. ex Dillwyn) Mabberley (Theobald, 1981). Two species are known from Kerala (Sasidharan, 2004): *Stereospermum colais* (Buch.-Ham. ex Dillwyn)

Mabberley, which is an important medicinal plant occurring in moist deciduous and semi-evergreen forests, besides, in the plains throughout Kerala and *Stereospermum suaveolens* (G. Don) DC. that is restricted to the moist deciduous forests of Wayanad district. These two species are Indo-Malaysian in distribution.

During the studies on the tree flora of Kerala some interesting specimens of *Stereospermum* with showy flowers were collected from Kulathupuzha Forest Range in Kollam district. The specimens were found allied to *S. colais* proper but differed in certain floral characters (see Table 1). It is described as a new variety, *S. colais* var. *shendurunii*.

Stereospermum colais (Buch.-Ham. ex Dillwyn) Mabberley var. ***shendurunii*** Sasidharan, Sujanalpal et Binoy, *var. nov.*

Fig. 1

Varietate typica similis foliis inflorescentiaque glabris, capsulis quadrangularibus, sed floribus maioribus roseis, calycis lobis maioribus ovatis acutis, corollae lobis non crispatis, differt

Type: INDIA, Kerala, Kollam District, Kulathupuzha, Sangli, 19 March 1993, N. Sasidharan 10300 (Holotype, MH; Isotypes, CALI, KFRI).

Paratypes: Cheenikala 26 May 1998, P.C. Binoy & A.

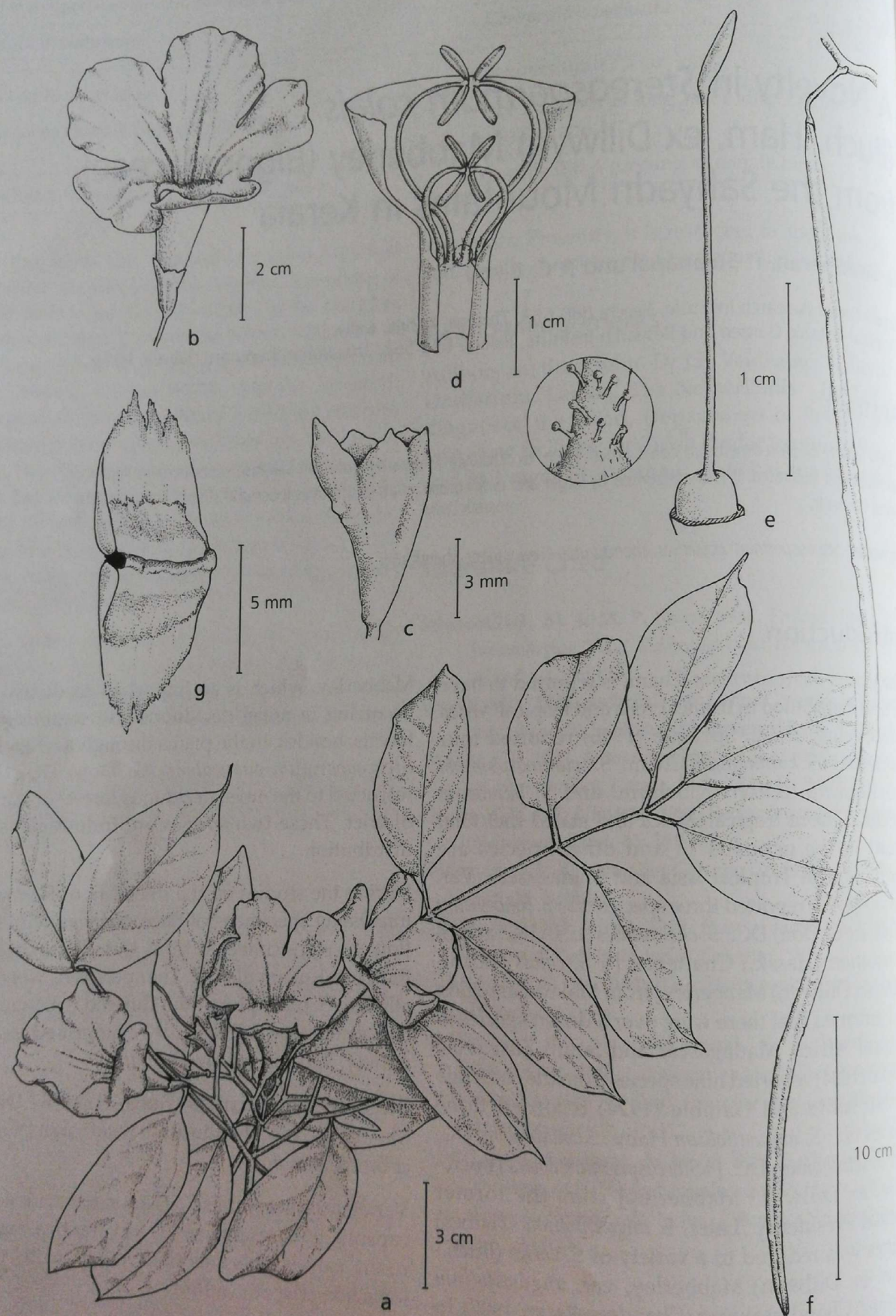


Figure 1. *Stereospermum colais* var. *shendurunii* Sasidharan, Sujanapal et Binoy. a. Flowering twig; b. Flower; c. Calyx; d. Corolla cut open; e. Pistil; f. Fruit; g. Seed

Table 1. Morphological characters of *S. colais* var. *colais* and *S. colais* var. *shendurunii*

<i>S. colais</i> var. <i>colais</i>	<i>S. colais</i> var. <i>shendurunii</i>
Lamina glabrous above, sometimes puberulent beneath.	Lamina glabrous except on midrib.
Calyx 0.5-0.6 cm long, 3-5 toothed, obtuse.	Calyx 1.2-1.5 cm long, 4 or 5 toothed, ovate-acute.
Corolla 2-2.5 cm across, yellow, lobes crisped.	Corolla c. 5 cm across, pink with red lines and blotches, lobes not crisped.
Filaments with simple hairs at base.	Filaments with simple and glandular hairs mixed at base.
Epicarp thin.	Epicarp thick and woody.

Hussain 32818 (Fruit), A. Hussain & P.C. Binoy 32819 (Flower), Riverine areas of Sangli river; Kulathupuzha, Cheenikala, 26 May 1998, P.C. Binoy & A. Hussain 32818 (Fruit), A. Hussain & P.C. Binoy 32819 (Flower); 8 July 1998, P.C. Binoy & A. Hussain 32825; 30 July 1998, P.C. Binoy & A. Hussain 32828; (TBGT); Riverine areas of Sangli river, 26 March 2004, Sasidharan & Sujanal 30826 (KFRI).

Tall trees. Leaves imparipinnate, opposite, rarely subopposite, estipulate; rachis 10-30 cm long, pubescent when young, stout, swollen at base, grooved above; leaflets 7-9, opposite or subopposite, petiolule 5-20 mm, stout, pubescent when young, grooved above; lamina 8-18 x 3-7 cm, elliptic-lanceolate, ovate, ovate-oblong to obovate; base obliquely acute or rounded, apex acuminate or caudate-acuminate, midrib pubescent above, margin entire, chartaceous, lateral nerves 5-12 pairs, pinnate, regular, arched towards the margin, raised below, intercostae reticulate. Panicle terminal, erect, peduncle stout, to 30 cm long. Flowers c. 5 cm across, bisexual, pedicel slender, puberulent, calyx 4 or 5 lobed, lobes unequal, dorsal lobe much larger than the others, puberulent, tube 1.2-1.5 cm long; corolla regular, infundibuliform, 5 lobed, 3 dorsal lobes with 3 red lines, 2 ventral lobes partially united, a purple blotch at the mouth of the corolla tube, throat yellowish inside, tube dark pink outside, pubescent inside, base glandular hairy; stamens 4, didymous; filaments unequal, smaller ones 1-1.2 cm long, larger to 2.2-2.5 cm long, simple and glandular hairy below; anthers divergent, c. 5 mm long, oblong, basifixed; ovary, c. 5 x 5 mm long, oblong, glabrous, style terminal, c. 2 cm long, stigma bilobed, clavate. Fruit a capsule, 20-80 cm long, pendulous, 4 angled, smooth, lenticellate, 2 valved, tapering at both ends, epicarp thick and

woody; seeds 2.5 - 3 x 0.3-0.6 cm, many, fixed on the cylindrical central suture, 2 winged, greyish white or yellowish-white, wings lacerate at apex.

Flowering & Fruiting: March-August.

Etymology: Epithet of the new variety is based on its type locality.

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